

SAFETY BULLETIN

SB01-007 Safety Bulletin Child Safety Protection Month

November 2000 (Initial)

We use chemicals every day. They help us to live better and stay healthy. Yet, when used carelessly, even familiar chemicals can be dangerous. Each year about 200,000 accidental poisonings occur in the United States; of these, about 2,500 result in death.

Keep chemicals out of reach

Take a quick look around your home — check drawers, storage shelves, cupboards (especially those under the bathroom and kitchen sinks) and medicine cabinets. Inspect the basement, garage and all utility buildings. Many children will eat or drink anything they can get in their hands. How poison proof is your home? Use the following checklist to evaluate:

Kitchen

- No household products under the sink.
- No medicines on counters or in open areas.
- All household products and medications must be kept out of reach.

Bathroom

- Medicine chest cleaned out regularly.
- Throw out Old medications.
- All medicines in original, safety top containers.
- All medicines, sprays, powders, cosmetics, fingernail preparations, hair care products, etc. out of reach.

Bedroom

- No medicines in or on dresser or bedside table.
- All perfumes, cosmetics, and powders out of reach.

Laundry area

- All bleaches, soaps, detergents, fabric softeners, bluing agents, cleaners and sprays out of reach.
- All of the above in original containers.

Garage/basement

- Pesticides in locked area.
- Gasoline and car products in locked area.
- Turpentine, paints, and paint products in locked area.
- All of the above in original containers.

General household

- Alcoholic beverages out of reach.
- Ashtrays empty or out of reach.
- Plants out of reach.
- Paint in good repair.
- Household and personal products out of reach.

Home poisonings should never happen. The best prevention method is a locked storage space. If locked storage is impractical, keep poisons out of the reach of children. Many products are now sold in "childproof" packages as a result of the Poison Prevention Packaging Act. Ask for and use childproof packaging.